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australis, found a specimen in the sphagnum of Duck Lake bogs. We have no records of it from Monroe Co., yet it occurs on both sides at Buffalo and in Wayne Co. near Oswego. This leads us to expect it in sphagnum areas in Monroe County.

6. *Plethodon cinereus* (Green). Red-backed Salamander. Lead-backed Salamander. Common in wooded sections and along the Genessee Valley. Taken at Mendon Ponds, Bergen Swamp, Fairport, Powder Mills, Eastman-Durand Park, Duck Lake, Junius.

7. *Plethodon glutinosus* (Green). Slimy Salamander. Secured three in Eastman-Durand Park, Rochester, N. Y., May 18, 1916, and later at Duck Lake, Wayne Co. Mr. S. C. Bishop reports it as common along the Clyde River. In one instance he found 38 adults under one piece of bark.

8. *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus* (Green). Salmon-colored Salamander. Rare on springy hillsides in both Monroe and Wayne counties.

9. *Eurycea bislineata* (Green). Two-lined Salamander. Not uncommon in the Genessee Valley and in clear streams of wooded areas. Taken about Bergen swamp, August 5, 1916, and August 18, 1918, Eastman-Durand Park, Genessee Valley Park, May 18, 1916, and about Duck Lake area, Wayne Co.

10. *Desmognathus fuscus fuscus* (Rafinesque). Dusky Salamander. Not common north of Ridge road in Monroe Co. More common in Genessee Valley, in hilly parts of Monroe County and in Wayne Co. Taken at Hilton, Powder Mills, Mendon, Duck Lake and Junius.

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SCELOPORUS UNDULATUS (LATRIELLE) FEIGNING DEATH.

Though it is probably known that the common swift (*Sceloporus undulatus*) often "plays possum"

or feigns death when caught, I have seen nothing published on the subject; the following notes are submitted in the hope of eliciting observations from others.

On May 24, 1918, near Petersburg, Va., I had an interesting experience with one of these lizards. When caught in the hand it doubled up its feet and "played possum," and even remained motionless when I placed it upon its back on the ground and stepped away a few feet. However, when placed right-side-up on a log and left alone a moment, it scurried away.

Just one year later (May 24, 1919), I had an opportunity to observe this habit again. Mr. Lewis S. Golsan and I were passing through a piece of mixed woods near Prattville, Ala., when an adult swift darted across the old roadway just ahead of us. I caught it as it attempted to climb a pine to safety and holding it in my palm, stroked its back and then its abdomen with a finger. Like the first, it drew its feet up against its body and then remained motionless, except for an occasional blink of the eyelids. Placing it upon its back among the leaves on the ground, I walked away several feet, but though its eyes were kept open and it could plainly see my every movement, it made no attempt to escape even when I returned and picked it up again. Next I put it upon its back in a bed of bare sand in the middle of the road and stepped away about twenty feet, and though I remained quiet for two minutes the lizard made no move to right itself. After handling it again, I placed it back on the sand in the same position and again moved away about twenty feet and sat down for ten minutes, but still the animal showed no sign of life except the blinking of the eyes when I returned and picked it up. Again placing it up-side-down on the sand I stepped off forty-four yards and remained three minutes, only to return and find the swift just as I had left it. Then I turned it over upon its belly and returned to my observation post forty-four yards

away and waited five minutes. When I went back to the reptile it still lay motionless, with its legs drawn up under it, though my foot was placed within a few inches of it; but when I stooped to pick it up it darted away across the leaves.

This latter individual was under observation for twenty-five or thirty consecutive minutes and during this time did not shift its position. During the entire time the animal was upon its back it maintained a constrained position with the spine curved and the head and tail well off the ground. The feet were drawn up upon the belly and the eyes were kept open; the only perceptible motion about the animal being the occasional blinking of the eyelids.

A young *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* (Linn.). About half grown, caught by hand on June 5, 1919, showed an entirely different disposition. This lizard was very restless, even in the hand, and the moment it was released, darted away with the speed characteristic of the species.

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A NOTE ON THE LENGTH OF LIFE OF SOME BATRACHIANS IN CAPTIVITY.

Do frogs and salamanders die of old age or continue to live until killed by some of their natural enemies? Metchnikoff (*Prolongation of Life*, 1910) says:

“Not very much is known about the duration of life in batrachians, but it is certain at least that some small frogs may live 12 or 16 years, and toads as many as 36 years.”

This problem is very hard to study because it is seldom possible to keep close run of any of these animals when wild, and sometimes hard to tell whether